

Chairman's Foreword

I am delighted to introduce the Centre for Independent Living – Belfast's first Annual Report that covers the establishment of the project and initial year of operation.

CIL-Belfast is typical of a world-wide movement of disabled people committed to empowering and supporting their peers to achieve independent life styles. While individual CIL's may develop different services that reflect the priorities of disabled people in each area, they all subscribe to the **social model of disability**. The social model is significant in recognising the external factors that disempower individual disabled people and create barriers to their effective involvement in the ordinary activities of daily living in the wider community. This analysis is fundamental to the role of the CIL.

The Centre for Independent Living – Belfast is a three-year project, wholly grant funded by the Eastern Health and Social Services Board, designed to promote independent living and encourage and support the uptake of Direct Payments within the Eastern Board area. Following the award of grant in October 2000, the steering committee moved quickly to adopt the draft constitution and establish a Management Board to implement the project.

By March 2001 Philomena McCrory, who was recruited as Project Co-ordinator, had moved into the project office at NICVA's new purpose-built premises in Duncairn Gardens. By August 2001 Paul Anderson, Personal Assistance Adviser and Debbie Whitson, Administrator had joined the team. We are particularly grateful to Frances Hasler, of the National Centre for Independent Living, Etienne d'Aboville of the CIL in Glasgow and Alan Richardson,

Eastern Board for helping us in the recruitment and appointments processes.

A very successful CIL launch celebration was held at Malone House last December. Speaking at the launch, John Richards, Eastern Board Director of Social Services said *"this is a challenging beginning for the Centre but, knowing the people involved, I am very optimistic about its future development as a resource for disabled people to promote their independence. I know this is the aspiration of the management committee of the Centre and*



Speakers at the CIL launch in Malone House.
Back row: Frances Hasler, NCIL, John Richards EHSSB,
Front row: Mike Hendra CIL Chairman,
Linda McDade, Direct Payments User

they will have our blessing and support in taking this forward." These sentiments have epitomised the help and encouragement given to us by the Board, without whose funding the project would not be possible.

The Project Co-ordinator's report demonstrates how CIL – Belfast has built on these early foundations and has consolidated the core work on Direct Payments. In the next phase of the project we will need to consider and implement initiatives that ensure the continuity of the

Centre, that increase individual membership, that lead to the delivery of our work elsewhere in Northern Ireland and that provide for diversification into other services to underpin independent living. In particular, I have in mind the potential of a complimentary housing advice service for independent living.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge and thank both the CIL Management Board members and project staff for their considerable contributions to the project so far and look forward to working collaboratively in the next phase of our work.

Mike Hendra - Chairman

Coordinator's Report

This has been a busy first year for CIL – Belfast. We have developed a range of core services; **information, advice, advocacy and training**, to support disabled people managing or considering managing their own personal assistance using Direct Payments. We also provide training for social workers, care managers and other professionals on issues related to independent living. We have encouraged **peer support** whereby people using Direct Payments share their experience with each other and with other people considering Direct Payments

Much of our early work involved extensive networking to promote the principles of independent living, to demystify the Direct Payments process and to explain the role of CIL in supporting disabled people on the journey to independence. We have established excellent working relationships with staff across the programmes of care in the HSS Trusts and developed links with a wide range of other disability organisations to share information and explore the potential of joint working.

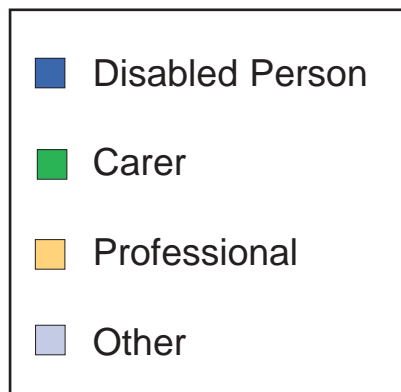
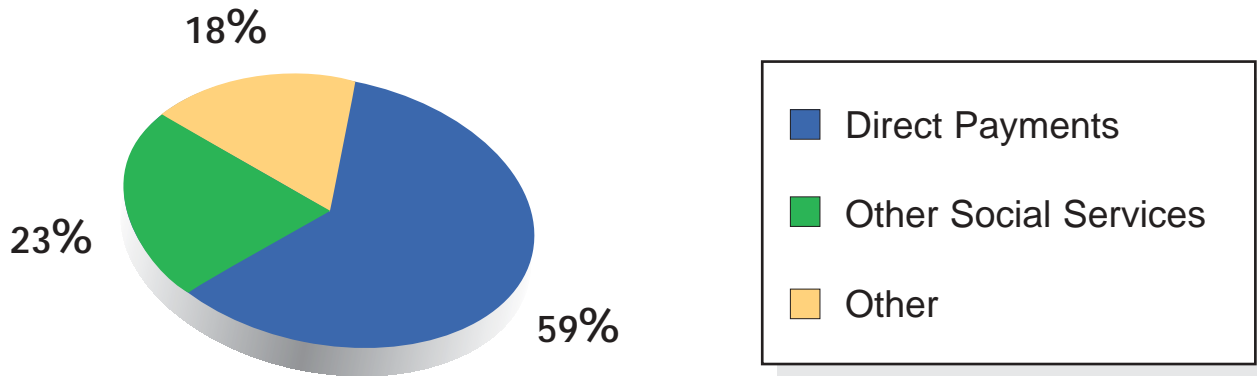
We have developed and disseminated a range of information materials on independent living and Direct Payments and we have contributed articles to a variety of other organisation's publications and newsletters. Over the period, we have seen a steady increase in the number of people contacting CIL for information and advice, mainly in relation to Direct Payments and the implications of becoming an employer. From August – March, we have dealt with almost 200 telephone enquiries, 28 callers at the office and made 23 home visits. We have delivered 28 training sessions to approximately 380 people, as well as participating in a number of conferences, seminars, workshops and information days.



Philomena McCrory Co-ordinator and Paul Anderson Personal Assistance Adviser at the launch in Malone House in December

Telephone Enquiries

198 - total enquiries recorded
from August 01 - March 02



We look back on the year with some satisfaction. Centre for Independent Living-Belfast has provided a focus for the development of Direct Payments in the Eastern Board area and we have received enthusiastic support and encouragement from disabled people and Trust staff alike. The availability of a comprehensive, independent, and practical support service has been appreciated and is helping to make Direct Payments a real choice for disabled people. However, much remains to be done and in the coming year we hope to build on the work we have started. We will continue to develop our services with an emphasis on accessibility and inclusiveness for all disabled people and, most importantly, we will encourage disabled people to become actively involved with the work of CIL at every level.

Philomena McCrory - Co-ordinator

Accounts 2001/2002

Income	£	Expenditure	£
EHSSB grant	105,000	Staff costs	52,303
Employment Support	4,058	Establishment costs	5,858
Consultancy Fees	300	Administration costs	7,221
Donation – CCEA	300	Depreciation	3,725
Other	310		
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	109,968		69,107
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SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE			40,861
Transfer to designated reserve			(40,861)
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(Full accounts, audited by Crawford Sedgewick & Co, are available on request)

Centre for Independent Living – Belfast Management Board

Mike Hendra (Chairman)
Christine Ferrin (Treasurer)
Cathy Chivers
Angela Hendra
Linda McDade
David McDonald

Kevin McLaughlin
Michael Morgan
Ronan Murray
Heather Nelson
Aidan Shortt

Staff Team

Philomena McCrory (Co-ordinator)
Paul Anderson (Personal Assistance Adviser)
Debbie Whitson (Administrator)
Irene McWatters (Support Worker)



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